



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park

1000 U.S. Highway 36
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

970-586-1363 phone
970-586-1397 fax

Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

August 5, 2005
For Immediate Release
David Eaker/Kyle Patterson 970-586-1363

Crews Continue Search for Missing Park Ranger

No New Clues Uncovered Yesterday

The search continues for missing Rocky Mountain National Park Ranger Jeff Christensen, who was last seen by visitors near the summit of Mount Chiquita at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29. Christensen was planning a backcountry patrol to the Lawn Lake Trailhead that evening. He did not contact park dispatch that evening and did not arrive for his shift on Saturday. The search now enters its seventh day.

Yesterday, over 100 searchers followed up on clues received late Tuesday night and narrowed their search area, but found no new evidence of Christensen. Rainy, overcast weather hampered aerial search efforts until the afternoon.

Today approximately 150 searchers (including National Park Service personnel and search and rescue volunteers), five helicopters and three dog teams will continue to search the 26 square mile area where they believe Christensen may be, based on known evidence. Additionally, five helicopters will be used in today's operation, both to shuttle some crews into hard to access areas and to conduct aerial reconnaissance. Some crews will be spending the night out in the search area to lengthen their search period. Weather may once again hamper today's search efforts, as the forecast calls for continued overcast skies and possible showers. Ground crews will once again focus their efforts in the area where yesterday's evidence indicated that Christensen may be.

The search area is in the Mummy Range which is a remote, high altitude, rugged area which includes Mount Chapin, Mount Chiquita, Ypsilon Mountain and Desolation Peaks. There are few designated trails in the area and hiking mainly occurs cross country.

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Christensen is 31-years-old and is an experienced mountaineer. He is extremely fit and capable of covering long distances in a short period of time. Although Jeff was not intending to spend the night he had a backpack with a variety of gear. He also had a park radio with him, however, in some drainages radio coverage is spotty or his battery could have run out. This is his fourth season as a park ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Jeff is an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and has worked ski patrol at Winter Park for the past seven years. His hometown is Fraser, Colorado.

Park officials are asking for help from anyone who may have been in the Mummy Range and/or Lawn Lake Trail area on Friday or Saturday to contact the park at **(970) 586-1204**.

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